

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548 to Sistanizadeh. In particular, the Examiner finds that, with regard to claim 1, Sistanizadeh discloses all of the claimed limitations. Applicant has reviewed the reference with care, paying particular attention to the passages cited, and is compelled to respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

However, in the interest of clarity, Applicant has amended claim 1 so that it is expressly directed to a method of using mappings (or bindings) associated with a server to establish communications between the server (or service provider) and a client through a gateway. The service provider is on a private network and has a virtual name that is bound by a first such binding to the address of the gateway on an external network and by a second such binding to the address of the service provider on the private network. The claimed method is invoked upon the client using the virtual name to access the service provider, and entails using the first binding to enable the client to contact the gateway and thereby setting up a first session between the client and the gateway, and using the second binding to enable the gateway to contact the service provider and thereby setting up a second session between the client and the service provider, the second session being nested in the first session between the client and gateway such that second-session data is encapsulated in first-session data and is forwarded by the gateway between the client and service provider.

Sistanizadeh, on the other hand, is directed to increasing the bandwidth available to ADSL users. As best illustrated in Fig. 7 of Sistanizadeh, a user PC 710 uses an ADSL connection to a router 330 (see Fig. 3) to get a dynamically-assigned IP address from a DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server 712. The IP address assigned to the PC depends on the MAC address of the PC and on the username and password used to log into the DHCP server, as these parameters indicate to the DHCP server which ISP the user wants to contact and

the DHCP server then selects an IP address from the range of IP addresses associated with that ISP (please see, e.g., col.9, line 60 to col. 11, line 38). After the DHCP server has assigned an IP address to the PC, the DHCP server 712 updates the DNS server 714 to provide the current mapping between the host name of the PC 710 and its newly-assigned IP address. Because the IP address assigned to the PC is associated with the desired ISP, the router 330 can route data packets coming from the PC to the correct ISP network simply by looking at the source (i.e., PC) IP address. After the PC has been assigned an IP address, it does a DNS look up of the IP address of the host server that it wishes to contact and sends an information request to the server, and the server uses the source IP address of the request message to reply to the PC.

Thus, in direct contrast, with the invention of present claim 1, there is nothing in Sistanizadeh that could be understood by the skilled person as teaching or alluding to providing two different bindings or mappings associated with the host name of the server. Sistanizadeh merely discloses the well-known single mapping method wherein the server (ISP) that the user PC desires to contact has a host name that is translated to an IP address by the DNS server - hence, a single mapping that maps the server name to the address of the server on the public network (the Internet). There is nothing in Sistanizadeh that teaches or alludes to the first mapping binding the server name to the address of the gateway (the router 330), nor to providing a second mapping that binds the server name to its address on the private network and that can be used by the gateway. Of course, it is noteworthy that the architecture of Sistanizadeh is essentially opposite to that contemplated by Applicant, as the server or service provider of Sistanizadeh is on the public network (the Internet) and it is the client (the user PC) that is on a private network (such as a corporate LAN).

There is also no disclosure whatsoever in Sistanizadeh of encapsulating communication sessions. The Examiner's assertion that this is inherent in the address resolution of Sistanizadeh completely misconstrues the encapsulation concept contemplated by the present claim, which now clearly recites that second-session data is encapsulated in first-session data and is forwarded by the gateway between the client and service provider. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, there is no such action inherent in address resolution, i.e. translation from domain name to numeric IP address.

In view of all of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over Sistanizadeh. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clearly and specifically point out, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)2, where Sistanizadeh discloses two separate mappings associated with the server, and nested communication sessions.

Claim 10 recites limitations such as two mappings and encapsulated messages, similar to claim 1. The above discussion of Sistanizadeh is therefore equally applicable to claim 10, and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is likewise patentable over Sistanizadeh.

Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend from claim 1, and claim 11 depends from claim 10. In view of the above discussion, it is submitted that claims 1 and 10 are allowable, and for this reason claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11 are also allowable.

Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicant believes that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urges the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

April 14, 2005

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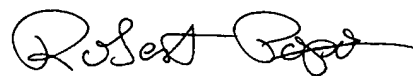


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Respectfully submitted,



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